

COMMENTS ON PSB-24

1. This draft paper, dated October 14, 1952, ignores entirely the fact that considerable groundwork has been done by various agencies on the basic theme. Its sole purpose seems to be to initiate a joint conception of the problem in spite of the fact that a number of decisions have already been arrived at. The most important of these has been an agreement in principle that diplomatic silence will be maintained by this government in the event of Stalin's death and that attempts will be made to obtain parallel official action from friendly governments.

2. Except for a suggestion in Paragraph 6.d., relating to general Soviet vulnerabilities, the PSB paper is solely concerned with the almost impossible task of exploiting or ~~formulating~~ tensions within the Presidium prior to and subsequent to Stalin's demise. This is certainly a desirable objective but doesn't fall within any present or foreseeable capabilities of this government or this agency unless a broad variety of indirect actions are organized with the idea of creating situations capable of producing divisive tensions at the top. In other words, although one can not disagree with the desirability of producing such effects as are outlined in the PSB paper, our primary targets will have to be sought for at a much lower level. This fact is being ignored by PSB.

3. Within the context of "placing maximum strain on the Soviet structure of power" it is suggested that consideration be given to the three principles and six Ancillary Objectives outlined in the previous paper submitted by the undersigned. Unless we select our targets within areas that U.S. overt and covert capabilities can attain and affect, the entire plan will be nothing more than a pious declaration of intent. By proper exploitation of this theme in a definitely coordinated policy framework we will be able to place the entire Soviet empire in a defensive position and increase disruption beginning at the low levels and mounting progressively towards the summit of the pyramid. No other technique will grant these positive results.

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